

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (new): A method for generating a tuple representing relationships among nodes in a network, the method comprising:

identifying a link directly coupling a host to a first port of a node;

identifying an intermediate connection which indirectly couples the host to an intermediate node, wherein the intermediate node is not aware that the node exists; and

generating a new tuple identifying a relationship between the node and the intermediate node based on the identified intermediate connection and the direct link, wherein the new tuple indicates that the node is directly coupled to the intermediate node.

Claim 22 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein the host is a singly-heard-host which is the only host heard on the first port of the node.

Claim 23 (new): The method of claim 22, wherein the singly-heard-host is at least one of a workstation, a personal computer, a terminal and a printer.

Claim 24 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein the tuple and the new tuple contain data associated with a topology of the network.

Claim 25 (new): The method of claim 21, wherein generating the new tuple comprises:

determining that the node is directly coupled to the intermediate node via a second port of the node.

Claim 26 (new): The method of claim 25, further comprising:

storing the new tuple in the the intermediate node.

Claim 27 (new): The method of claim 25, further comprising:

storing the new tuple in the the node.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

determining whether the host is heard only by the first port of the node;

if the host is heard only by the first port of the node, classifying the new tuple as a singly-heard host link tuple.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

determining if another node hears the host as a singly-heard host; and

if another node hears the host, classifying the new tuple as a singly-heard conflict link tuple; and

resolving a conflict associated with the host between the node and the another node.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

generating an extra host link tuple for the intermediate node indirectly coupled to the host via the intermediate connection.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30, further comprising:

examining the singly heard host link tuple and the extra host link tuple; and

based on the examining if the node is determined to be connected to the host and the intermediate node is determined to be connected to the host, generating a conn-to-conn link tuple between the node and the intermediate node.

Claim 32 (new): A system for generating a tuple representing relationships among nodes in a network, the system comprising:

a first node directly coupled to a host via a first port;

an intermediate node indirectly coupled to the host via an intermediate connection, wherein the intermediate node is not aware that the first node exists; and

a tuple manager to generate a new tuple identifying a relationship between the first node and the intermediate node based on the intermediate connection and the direct link, wherein the new tuple indicates that the first node is directly coupled to the intermediate node.

Claim 33 (new): The system of claim 32, wherein the host is a singly-heard-host which is the only host heard on the first port of the first node.

Claim 34 (new): The system of claim 33, wherein the singly-heard-host is at least one of a workstation, a personal computer, a terminal and a printer.

Claim 35 (new): The system of claim 32, wherein the tuple and the new tuple contain data associated with a topology of the network.

Claim 36 (new): The system of claim 32, wherein the tuple manager is to determine whether the first node is directly coupled to the intermediate node via a second port of the first node.

Claim 37 (new): The system of claim 32, further comprising:

a database to store the new tuple generated.

Claim 38 (new): The system of claim 32, wherein the tuple manager is to further determine whether the host is heard only by the first port of the first node and if the host is heard only by the first port of the first node, the tuple manager is to classify the new tuple as a singly-heard host link tuple.

Claim 39 (new): The system of claim 38, wherein the tuple manager is to further determine if another node hears the host as a singly-heard host, classify the new tuple as a singly-heard conflict link tuple if another node hears the host and resolve a conflict associated with the host between the first node and the another node.

Claim 40 (new): The system of claim 32, wherein the tuple manager is to further generate an extra host link tuple for the intermediate node indirectly coupled to the host via the intermediate connection, examine the singly heard host link tuple and the extra host link tuple and generate a conn-to-conn link tuple between the first node and the intermediate node if the first node is determined to be connected to the host and the intermediate node is determined to be connected to the host.